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home safety *Review*

Spring cleaning comes to everyone—even star Gale Storm, "assisted" by son.

SPRING, 1959

recreation campaign

OUTWIT SUMMER HAZARDS

home safety

Review

Spring, 1959 Vol. 17 No. 1

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Urban Renewal — dynamic approach

by ALBERT M. COLE,
former U. S. Housing Administrator

Excerpts from a speech at the fourth national Construction Industry Conference

A VAST CHANGE in climate has taken place in this country in recent years as far as urban renewal is concerned. When I became administrator in 1953, there were mayors of cities, many of them, who were "reluctant dragons" on urban renewal. At the beginning they didn't grasp either the full possibilities or the potentialities. No one can say that's the case today.

Among planners and housing officials views have changed. A well-known "houser" of my acquaintance, used to be violent on the subject of the workable program. It was only recently he admitted he had altered his views and I can see why. There are a few concepts that have carried us so far at so little cost. This workable program idea that a community should analyze itself, assess its faults and virtues and plan comprehensively for the future, makes sense. It makes sense not only as a prerequisite to receiving federal support, but because it is a good thing to do in any event.

As a matter of fact, the views of most of us have changed since the Housing Act of 1949. To take one example, the early picture we had in mind of armies of bulldozers smashing down acres of slums — doing away with them forever — couldn't provide the answer; only a partial answer.

Rehabilitating and restoring potential slums is just as important as clearing actual slums. As you know, this was the new vista opened up by the Housing Act of 1954.

The truth is that we have been learning by experience. Successive experiments have been enlarging our horizons. More and more we are coming to see that our housing and slum problems are inseparably interrelated with other social and economic problems — urban, suburban, metropolitan. It is useless—it is a waste of time as well as money to try to tackle them in pieces. Only the total approach is valid to a total problem.

Codes and code enforcement are an integral part of the total approach.

But we can carry this thought further. Just improving and preserving the character of a neighborhood by construction work is still only a partial answer.

Such things as traffic hazards and the noise and dirt accompanying indiscriminate traffic are the enemies of neighborhoods.

In addition, let us keep this thought in mind: a neighborhood is a neighbor to other neighborhoods. In planning a traffic system the proper relationship between neighborhoods must be created. Here again this involves the overall view—the total approach to urban renewal.

One of the most encouraging signs I see on the urban renewal horizon today is an upsurge of community leadership.

When I say this I am talking about those people who realize deeply that the vitality of any community springs from within. They see and understand its faults and virtues both. They try to see it in perspective and to see it whole.

Here we have hope for the future. If this resurgence is sustained, if it becomes widespread, then we are really on the move to the total approach I hope for.

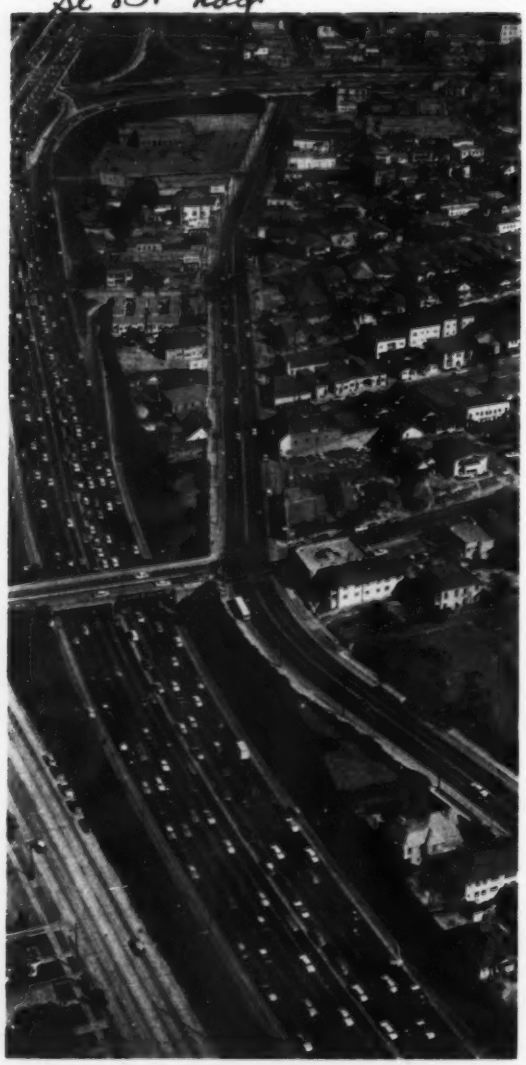
As for the part the federal government should play, I find myself leaning more and more to the word catalyst.

The dictionary defines it as "acceleration of a reaction." It is a dynamic word. It does not preclude federal help. But it does convey the idea of help for self-help. ■

"Rapid urbanization of America—challenge to safety" was the subject of a session at the 1958 National Safety Congress. The three subsequent articles are condensations of speeches at that session.

CITIES: GIANTS OF THE FUTURE

Our 1975 population will be up to 216 million. Suburbs will swallow most of the increase and sprawl until they meet those of other cities, forming gigantic metropolitan areas. So predicts a population expert.



by Dr. Philip Hauser

BACK in 1930 projection of the U.S. population indicated that we would be a nation of about 165 million people by the end of the century. But, what has happened? The course of events has completely belied that projection. We became a nation of 165 million people not in 1999 but in 1955. Recently, we have become a nation of 175 million people.

Why the population boom?

The answer is found in the remarkable boom in babies and marriages that has been completely unanticipated either in its magnitude or its duration. This boom has drastically altered present rates of population growth and altered the prospect for the future.

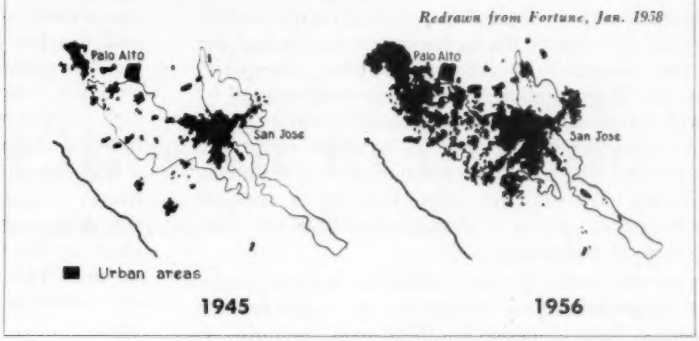
What will the future population be?

By 1975 the population of the U.S. will be somewhere between 216 million and 246 million. These are just abstract numbers. They imply that in the short space of 25 years between 1950 and 1975 we shall be adding to our population at least something like 65 million people, more than the population of the United Kingdom or Western Germany. At most we shall be adding something like 95 million people, more than all the people of Japan.

This means that in the next 25 years safety leaders have the job of planning to deal with a population increase at least as large as the population of the United Kingdom and at the most, the population of Japan.

Dr. Hauser is chairman of the Department of Sociology, University of Chicago.

Example of Urban Sprawl



What is the urbanization outlook?

Urbanization trends are even more dramatic than those for population growth as a whole. When our first census was taken in 1790 there were only 24 places in the United States that had a population of 2,500 or more. Two had a population of 25,000. In all of urban United States there were only 200,000 people, five per cent of the total population at this time. By 1950 almost two-thirds of the country's population lived in such places.

What has happened in metropolitanization?

In 1900 about a third of the American people lived in places which would qualify as standard metropolitan areas today. During the first half of the century the population of non metropolitan areas increased 50 per cent. The population of the metropolitan U.S. increased 350 per cent. In consequence by 1950, 57 per cent, more than 85 million Americans, lived in 168 such standard metropolitan areas. This trend may be expected to continue and can be easily documented.

It is also clear that the trend is an accelerating one. The first half of this century the metropolitan areas of the U.S. absorbed 73 per cent of the total population growth of the country. In the last decade of our 50-year period, that is, between 1940 and 1950, metropolitan area absorbed 81 per cent of the total growth of the nation; and in the first half of the present decade, between 1950 and 1955, the metropolitan area absorbed 97 per cent of the total population growth.

What is the future of metropolitanization?

If we project this trend to the future, let us say the year 1975, we will have about 200 such standard metropolitan areas compared with 168 in 1950. In these 200 metropolitan centers alone there will be as many people as there were in the whole country in 1950, more than 150 million Americans. About two-thirds of the population will be living in our standard metropolitan area.

What is the decentralization trend?

By decentralization within standard metropolitan areas one often gets the mistaken image of people fleeing to the suburbs, emptying a central city. This is an imagery encouraged by supplements to the newspapers. Decentralization is a process by which larger and larger proportions of the metropolitan area are living in metropolitan rings or suburbs. There is nothing new about this, nothing new about urbanization. It is simply a continuation of the process by which our cities have grown from the beginning.

How did our suburbs grow?

Over the first half of the century our suburban population grew one and one-third times as fast as that of central cities. In the last ten years of that 50-year period, between 1940 and 1950, the suburban ring population grew two and one-half times as fast as the central city populations and in the first half of the present decade, 1950 to 1955, suburban populations grew seven times as fast as central city populations. Between 1950 and 1955 central city populations increased by four per cent, whereas population of our suburbs increased by 28 per cent.

Why increased decentralization?

There are two explanations. One, we are witnessing, along with this tremendous population growth, an adaptation of the way of life in our standard metropolitan areas to twentieth century technology as distinguished from nineteenth century technology. Most of our cities

and metropolitan areas grew during the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century largely in response to nineteenth century technology which is characterized by the steam engine, the belt and the pulley. These forces tended to have centrifugal effects forcing population around the factory.

Twentieth century technology, typified by the electric power, the automobile, the highways, the trucks and the telephone, permits further decentralization, widespread distribution of population in the clusters represented by standard metropolitan areas. Twentieth century technology makes possible tremendous increases in the size of the clusters which characterize our form of economic organization. We shall see cities changing in response to the twentieth century as distinguished from the nineteenth century technology.

The second reason for decentralization is quite simple. Larger proportions of our population live in the suburbs not because there is suddenly a flight to the suburbs. It is a simple fact that since about 1920 cities have filled up and the continued growth has necessarily taken place outside the city, both population-wise and industry-wise because the city can't grow where it is already filled up. Our central cities have fixed boundaries and the economic unit continues to grow and transcend those boundaries. Populations must live and industry must locate outside the confines of central city limits.

What is the prospect for the future?

Here are some dramatic and startling facts that will have many implications for safety work:

- Between 1950 and 1975 there will be an increase of about 65 million people in metropolitan area population.
- Of that 65 million increase (if the population is distributed as the trends indicate) only 12 million will go into cities and the other 53 million will go into the suburbs.
- Of that 53 million in the suburbs, 32 million will be living in what is now open country and unincorporated types of the suburban areas. The remaining 21 million will go into incorporated places.
- By 1975 up to 60 per cent of the populations of our metropolitan areas will be living in the suburbs and only 40 per cent in central cities.

What accounts for the city structure?

In the first cycle of development all our cities had their origin at points which encompass their original economic function. In Chicago, the origin was around the junction of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan which provided the first way of making a living. From this point the city spread outward.

In growing, these newer portions of the city were necessarily those most distantly removed from point of origin. Therefore, the newer houses were always most distantly removed from the point of origin. Newer housing always was most desirable, because, for one reason, it had all the effects of new technology, new electric lights, better plumbing. In addition, population tended to be distributed in space with social economic factors. Those in the higher stratifications had better housing, those in the lower, less desirable housing.

Remember also that our cities grew in a remarkable fashion. We grew in a big American way, not structure by structure but by subdivisions, neighborhoods and communities at a time. When the time came to decay—and this has implications for safety—we did this in a big American way also. We did not decay structure by structure; we decayed by subdivisions, neighborhoods and communities at a time and our slums became a national and international disgrace.

This growth produced the highest economy in the history of mankind, but it had certain costs and one is the slum areas. Now we are going back to clean up some of the mess we created in a hurry to get where we are. This clean-up is urban renewal—tearing down and rebuilding whole neighborhoods. This is the third cycle.

We now stand at the threshold of a new cycle of development. Now the suburban areas are growing at a terrifically rapid rate, the same as the cities did during the nineteenth century.

Are the slums of the next generation in the suburbs?

Obviously we don't have to wait until the next generation. Some are now slums. Not only are people moving to the suburbs but so is industry. Around industrial developments we are beginning to get cheap housing without regard to effects on the entire area, without any machinery of government to provide zoning in the interest of the entire metropolitan area or deal adequately with the problem of circulation to meet the needs of this tremendous metropolitan explosion.

What is the implication for safety?

In the future there will be a tendency to use these metropolitan areas in keeping with the changing requirements of the family cycle, that is: boy, girl get married; live in city; children come; they flee to the suburbs; children leave to come back to the central city.

In 1890 when the last child left home for marriage the average wife in the country was a widow. By 1950 as a result of increasing longevity, decreasing fertility, decreasing age of marriage and increasing concentration of marriage under age thirty, when the last child leaves home for marriage the husband and wife still have an average of 14 years left together. This implies that the demand for housing has safety needs that did not exist a century and a half ago. This implies a kind of population and a kind of demand for housing with respect to safety needs that did not exist a century ago.

The net effect is that the metropolitan areas of the future, unlike those of the past, are going to be much more heterogeneous. There will be good neighborhoods and bad neighborhoods from the innermost reaches of the city clear out to the end of the suburbs.

Metropolitan areas are growing to a point where we can expect coalescence. They will wipe out interubia as they meet. This is megalopolis.

URGENTLY

NEEDED:

Cities fit to live in

by Allan C. Williams

Cities can't sprawl haphazardly forever; a plan for land re-use, built around people, is overdue!

LET'S TAKE A fresh look at our cities and the resources available to our people, for cities and resources are significant in terms of people. People are the prime resource of every nation. All other things are by-products of civilization, deliberately fabricated, or created by upsetting the natural order, as man ignores the consequences of his short-range objectives.

As we look back over history, we see that the people of every epoch concentrated their skills and thought by the simple device of living close enough to each other to be effectively in personal contact. Cities come to have "personalities" as people shape them in relation to geographic factors and public policies. For example, a Chicagoan is both producer and product of his city. The essence of Chicago is its people.

Another way to think about cities and the regions they serve, is to think of the relative efficiency and convenience of living with neighbors. Large or small, a city is a collection of people who find it advantageous to live together, often because their individual skills can be used in specialized ways. They are much more productive as a group than they would be as individuals.

Safety in modern living is influenced by the efforts of men to establish a kind of safety for their earlier living conditions. Over the centuries we have seen technology develop safety measures, legislation express the will of the community and codes protect by specifying methods of building, standards of fire safety and use of elevators.

The law demands personal safety and the protection of property, but there is nothing in the law about neighborhoods which are old, ugly or dirty. Certainly it is bad for morale to have unattractive buildings and surroundings. But when fathers and mothers tremble to see children play in the yard, the time for land use reorganization is overdue.

Allan Williams is president of Neighborhood Renewal Consultants, Inc. of Chicago.

Let's plan land-use

The goal must be in view: cities are for people. The methods of achieving that goal must not overshadow the purpose of cities. The place to begin is implicit in a plan which reorganizes the use of land so that people circulate conveniently and safely and so that vehicles have a system designed for their use exclusively.

The plan should embody necessary land use assignments. The plan can limit the commitment of land for vehicles, and end the threat of municipal bankruptcy for the care and repair of streets and parking areas. The plan can bring to old neighborhoods a living environment better than commonplace subdivisions can offer.

Considering our increasing population we can't allow cities to sprawl endlessly. We must consider the land uses which are to be designed as cities for the future and arrange land use patterns to fit the human needs, the skills of the people, their ideas and desires and the sheer quantities of population.

Cities are not local. They serve their surroundings. In some ways cities influence their suburbs. In other ways they serve entire regions. Such influences are changing swiftly in the presence of more people, more education, more wealth, more leisure, more cultural activities and more movement of people and goods.

Design for people

Safety can be one of the criteria to test the suitability of proposed plans. Living in town or country should be safe. The elements of safety are in the space we use if we design for the people consistently. The fact that we are in the midst of a vast increase in population can be translated into pressure on land and other natural resources. We must give special thought to the re-use

of land because it is critical in terms of location. Other resources are scarcely re-usable.

In a paper prepared for the Land Economics Institute held at the University of Illinois last spring, Marion Clawson reported for Resources of the Future (Washington, D. C.), the following pair of tables, under the general title of "Current Land Uses and Over-All Demands for Land in the United States."

TABLE I. Use of land in the United States, 1900-2000 A.D.

Use of Land (Millions of Acres)	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1980	2000
Cities, including parks[1]	6	7	10	12	14	17	30	41
Recreation areas, public[2]	5	9	12	15	41	47	90	107
Agriculture, including farm roads, farmsteads	431	467	529	530	516	520	500	500
Forestry	525	512	501	501	488	484	460	450
Grazing	864	838	777	770	763	753	732	710
Transportation	18	20	22	24	24	25	28	30
Reservoirs & water management		1	2	3	7	10	15	20
Wildlife (Primary Use)			1	1	10	10	14	16
Mineral extraction, & misc. deserts, swamps, mountaintops	55	50	50	48	42	38	35	30
Total (Millions of Acres)—for each year listed above—1,904.								

[1]Cities of population 2,500 and over.

[2]Excludes municipal parks. Includes national park system, also areas in national forests reserved for recreation, also state parks, TVA, and Army Engineer's Corps reservoir areas reserved for recreation. Excludes all areas primarily for other purposes, although recreation is incidental. Assumption: about half of potential demand will be met.

Disaster ahead

Continuing to think about people as our prime resource, and land as the resource in which location is implicit, consider the alternatives before us. If we permit urban sprawl to go at a pace comparable to population growth, we will court disaster in our public works budgets because of the capital investments needed to equip raw land for the complex activities of cities. If we reorganize the urban areas to serve more comfortably, more efficiently, more safely, we can have better cities and save our land resources.

If we go in the direction of unplanned urban sprawl, Table II suggests how we must juggle our inheritance.

TABLE II. SUMMARY. Projected Land Use Changes, 1950-2000 A.D.

Land Uses	Projected Change 1950-2000 A.D. Million Acres	Projected Change 1950-2000 A.D. % of 1950	Estimated Changes: Extent and Direction	Probable Adjustment To Be Made If Projections of Demand and Supply Responses Are In Error
Urban purposes	+24	+141%	Very High	Area used will change proportionately.
Public recreation	+60	+128%	High	Some area adjustment; mostly intensity.
Agriculture	—20	— 4%	Low	Adjustments in area, intensity of use, foreign trade, & domestic consumption (all readily possible).
Foresty	—34	— 7%	High	No major change in area, great changes of intensity and consumption.
Grazing	—43	— 6%	High	No major change in area, great changes of intensity of use and output.
Transportation.	+ 5	+ 20%	High	Area used will change proportionately.
Reservoirs, etc.	+10	+100%	High	Area used will change proportionately.
Wildlife	+ 6	+ 60%	Moderate	Area used will change proportionately.
Mineral Extraction, and misc. deserts, swamps, mountains	— 8	— 21%	Low	Includes unaccounted areas.

But while population grows swiftly, the field of economic policy on the state and local level is a morass of confusion and neglect. Barriers to productivity are not confined to depressed regions. Some of the toughest ones are found in the areas of greatest growth. There exists no broad, organized body of research, no tested package of plans and programs to guide business leaders seeking to further local and regional development.

The rapid urbanization of America has implicit challenges to safety. Existing land use patterns in and near cities must be adjusted and re-adjusted endlessly to serve the ideas, the skills and the sheer quantities of people in each locality. ■

George (sliding down pole) and Jerry can escape in 15 seconds.

HOME "FIREMAN'S" ESCAPE

This clever and extremely practical method of fire escape, which resembles a fireman's pole, was designed and constructed by George Jerome, an employee of the United Illuminating Co.

As the photo shows, it is a vertical pole installed about two feet from the house and extends up to the second floor windows. The platform provides safety for the children in reaching the pole from the window.

Mr. Jerome's sons in practice drills have proved their proficiency at using the pole. It takes only 15 seconds for them to reach the ground after being given an alarm.

Mr. Jerome also installed an alarm system in his home so that if a fire should break out in his cellar, a warning is given throughout the house.

Photo and story, United Illuminating Co.

not rec'd.

Repairing condemned structures, occupant (below) sets ladder at dangerous angle and men (right) work without roof ladder.

not rec'd. in library

Housing Codes Can Be Hazardous

by E. R. Krumbiegel, M.D.

THE HOUSING CODE is the principal community force to effect conservation and rehabilitation of neighborhoods. Consequently, the enforcement of housing codes is a very important catalyst in the prevention of home accidents. But enforcement can also become a catalyst to cause home accidents.

Here is a fact not often recognized: when an order is served upon a person to repair his structure, that order may initiate a sequence of events which may precipitate home accidents. For example, take a broken or loose balcony rail. The occupants of the house are usually aware of the broken rail and avoid using that balcony. Or if they use the balcony they stay away from the rail. Although that rail may remain in bad condition for years, no accident will result. On the other hand, an unskilled repairman may fall from this very same balcony when trying to repair it.

Dr. Krumbiegel is commissioner of health, Milwaukee Health Department.

Most housing code enforcement activity is carried out in areas of the city which are moderately to severely blighted. The majority of property owners in these areas are: (1) aged persons, low income groups, pensioners, widows; (2) people with large families and low income; (3) people belonging to minority groups.

Tenant-occupied houses are owned by elderly, small scale property owners, the individual who lives in one house and owns the house next to him, for example, the old pensioner. Most such persons attempt to do housing rehabilitation themselves, out of economic necessity. They believe they are capable of doing minor carpentry and certainly the painting.

Oldsters try too hard

Many older people, developing a sense of frugality, feel that they must do the work themselves. Many, therefore, attempt tasks beyond their capacity from a safety viewpoint. Among the aged we are confronted with poor vision, muscular weakness, tendency toward dizziness, and forgetfulness of good safety practices. Among minority groups we are dealing with a great many people of low education and lack of experience in using tools.

In addition, emotional upsets, caused by such feelings as anger and resentment, increase accident proneness. And believe me, when an order is issued, we influence people but we certainly do not make friends.

Teach when they're teachable

Since housing code enforcement may not only catalyze accident prevention, but also accident potential, the enforcement agency has the moral obligation to promote home accident prevention as a segment of its home improvement program.

Actually there is merit to this over and above the safety factor. Many times we are in a position to teach people at a teachable moment. For instance, no matter how much you tell a person about ladder safety, it may not sink in. But if the person is about to undertake a task on a ladder, you are in an ideal position to fix in his mind the elements of ladder safety.

home recipe for retarding fire . . .

Hearth rugs, window drapes or other fabrics that might be fire hazards in the home can be given a simple but effective flame-retarding treatment, using a recipe suggested by U. S. Department of Agriculture researchers. Make a paste of three ounces (slightly more than ¼ cup) of powdered boric acid and a little water. Dissolve this paste in two quarts of hot water. Then add seven ounces of borax (slightly less than one cup) and stir until it dissolves. Be sure the fabrics you are going to treat are dry. Then soak them in the solution until they're thoroughly wet. Dry the fabrics and iron with only moderately hot iron. The flame retardant has to be renewed after each laundering. It is recommended for cotton, linen and rayon, but not for acetate, nylon, orlon or other synthetics or crease-resistant fabrics.

* * *

guide your child in safety . . .

In a little pamphlet "Teach Your Child to be Safe," the author E. Clark Woodward, director of safety at A. O. Smith Corp., Milwaukee, offers five rules to help your child learn to be safe. He wrote:

"You don't have to attend a teachers' college to learn how to guide your children in safety. Your job is in the home. The 'classroom' hours for your instruction are all the hours when the child is with you.

Understand your child's attitude. You can reach him quickly if you appeal to his desires. Those desires change as he grows older.

Don't nag, scold or threaten. Be his friend. Gain his confidence. Lead him instead of driving. Accentuate the positive.

Take the trouble to help him learn. You learned the hard way. Give him the benefit of your experience by showing, explaining, coaching him in safe practices.

Have patience and persistence. This is not a once-over process. Through all his 'phases' you will have to remind him, guide him, protect him with watchfulness.

Always set a good example, above all. You are constantly on trial. Don't expect him to do things differently or better than you do."

* * *

fatality rate lower in large cities . . .

Accident mortality is lower for the residents of large cities (250,000 or more) than for the population of the United States as a whole, according to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. In 1955-56 the accident death rates for large cities averaged 49.2 per 100,000 as compared to 56.8 for the whole country. Of the 41 cities under review, 32 had rates below the national average. The death rate ranged from 37.8 per 100,000 for Jersey City to 77.7 for Indianapolis. The largest cities (1,000,000 or more) had the lowest rate, 44.2 per 100,000 population. Curiously, the group of cities next in size (500,000 to 999,000) recorded the highest accident death rate, 55.3 per 100,000. The more favorable accident experience for the large cities than for the country as a whole is accounted for by their lower motor vehicle accident mortality.

* * *

"fishy" worm catcher . . .

"*Dig* your worms and live to enjoy the fish you might catch," says a bulletin from the Greater Saint Paul Safety Council. They condemn the gimmick of using electricity to chase fishworms from the ground and report that a 14-year old boy was electrocuted during such activity. This supposedly "new" way to get worms involves placing two spike electrodes a certain distance apart and connecting wires to the spikes, then to your house wiring. And up come the harassed worms! It has been recommended for best results to use the device after a rain or else to thoroughly water the lawn with a hose. Standing with wet feet on wet ground will put your feet in parallel with the flow of the current. The public should be warned of these dangers says the council.

* * *

poison film—top quality . . .

An extraordinary film of dramatic impact, good educational content and top quality production is *One Day's Poison,* produced by the National Film Board of Canada, 680 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 19, N. Y. Through several dramatized incidents, the film illustrates the variety and number of accidental poisonings among children and tells of the work of the Poison Control Center at the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital. The film is a well-told indictment against the adult neglect or carelessness that can exact such a tragic toll of innocent young life. Highly recommended.

copy in V.f pp. 11-17 Sp 66 W

OUTWIT SUMMER HAZARDS

• Show fun-loving outdoorites in your community how to handle those summer menaces—water, boats, fishing, even barbecues.

THE MARCH WIND may blow, but it's not too early to begin planning for summer. The days are getting longer, and soon neighborhoods will echo all day with the sound of children at play. Dad will be busy in the yard and Mom will be on "vacation" from her community activities. The whole family will be looking forward eagerly to summer's fun—weekend outings, vacation trips, a jaunt to the beach, picnics, enjoying the new boat.

Summertime, too, is a time for safety. What can a local home safety committee do to insure that families enjoy a summer free from accidents?

This section is addressed to local home safety committees, health departments, service organizations and industrial and commercial establishments with community interests and off-the-job safety programs. Planning for community safety in recreation or sports covers a variety of topics: swimming, boating, water sports (skin-diving, skiing), fishing, playgrounds and parks (also unsupervised areas), camping, summer day-camping, backyard pools, picnics, barbecues. The list is almost endless.

If you have water—then in all probability you have water safety problems. How many drownings from swimming and boating? How many "backyard" drownings?

If you have unprotected quarries, ravines, gravel pits, abandoned factories or mines—then you have a specialized safety problem. How many falls, fractures, sprains, strains can be traced to these sources?

If you have parks and playgrounds, supervised or unsupervised—then you may have safety problems.

• Step 1. Find out your community's score. Accidents in public places account for, on a national average, about 18% of the total reported. Among the 56 cities reporting annually to NSC, home deaths took 45% of the total, public accidents took 21%. Thus, these two categories, home and public, accounted for *2 out of every 3* accidental deaths in these cities.

Appoint a small committee to contact the coroner's office, the statistics division of health, police, fire and parks departments. Quickly scan newspaper files for the last year for reported accidents. Contact medical societies and hospitals for possible case histories.

Information is the surest weapon to combat skepticism, just as enthusiasm and sincerity can combat apathy.

• Step 2. Get together. Talk things over. Find out what various groups are doing or could do. Among the resources available in most communities are: *Official agencies—Police, Fire, Parks and Playgrounds, Schools.*

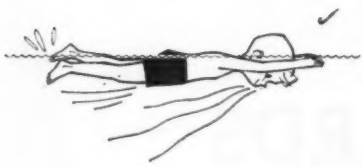
Volunteer agencies—Red Cross, "Y's", PTA's, women's clubs, service clubs, scouts and other youth groups, boating or yacht clubs, swimming and beach clubs, rod and gun clubs, Chamber of Commerce.

Professional associations—medical, nursing, health.

• Step 3. From among the specific topics treated in some detail in the next pages, select one or two, at most three, that your survey of resources tells you can be effectively done.

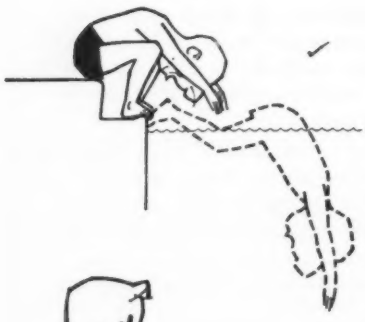
Caution: do not try to cover all the programs suggested. It is better to do one or two projects well than to scatter your committee's efforts over a broad range of projects.

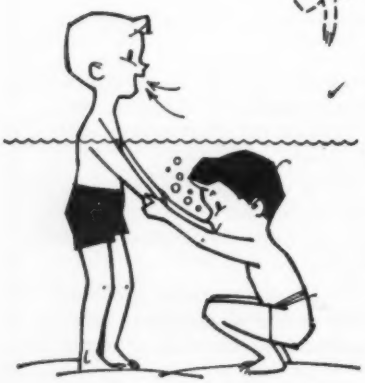
Set a timetable. Active work should probably start in June. This means that planning and sending for educational materials should start in March or April.



LET'S TEACH JOHNNY T

—not by old fashioned "sink or swim" tactics, but by "tried and true" instruction like that of the Red Cross





Drawings from Red Cross manual, "Teaching Johnny to Swim."

THE OLD FASHIONED formula for teaching swimming was to toss Johnny off the dock and let him flounder back to safety by himself. Oldsters boast that this is what their parents did to them, the theory being that somehow this method developed the rugged assurance Americans are so proud of.

How many neurotics this method is responsible for is not known, nor how many actual drownings. However, while it is possible to learn to swim without instruction, few self taught swimmers are classified as expert swimmers.

The individual's ignorance of the principles of good swimming plus his primary concern for staying on the surface cause him to set up swimming patterns that are crude, exhausting and grossly inefficient. Bad habits developed in an attempt to compensate for deficiencies in skill techniques are soon "grooved" and are difficult to break. For this reason it is usually easier to teach a nonswimmer to swim correctly than to change a person who has learned to swim by his own efforts.

If a person is to learn to swim well, he must have good instruction, which is based primarily upon a thorough knowledge of and an appreciation for the principles and methods of teaching swimming and lifesaving.

Thus, an important part of a community water safety campaign would be to encourage as many persons as possible to learn to swim correctly. Other objectives would include: provision for an adequate number of trained lifeguards at all public beaches and pools, provision for instruction in small boat handling and provision for patrol of waters where small craft are numerous.

The important thing is to find out what resources are available in your community. If there is a water safety program—even though not complete —in your community, the home safety committee should support the going program to make it as effective as possible, rather than try to establish competing activities.

What is your Red Cross doing?

Since 2,700 local Red Cross chapters have a program of water safety to some degree, it would be well for the home safety committee to contact the local Red Cross chapter first. Kits of materials on the Red Cross water safety program are available to local groups through all Red Cross chapters.

In most areas the training and instruction facilities of the Red Cross *are not used to the fullest possible extent,* and interested and enthusiastic support of these activities would be welcomed. It is not generally known, for example, that a Red Cross demonstration team can be obtained to come to a large private pool (hotel or club) to give demonstrations in survival and lifesaving techniques, "teaching Johnny to

...Y TO SWIM!

swim," orientation exercises in "you can help," etc. Arrangements are made through the local chapter. In one large city these demonstrations are jointly sponsored by the Red Cross and the local safety council.

For 45 years the American Red Cross has held classes in swimming. The courses include not only elementary and advanced classes for young people in how to swim, but more important, the training of water safety instructors. These latter are qualified and certified to teach swimming and life saving techniques.

The Red Cross conducts 28 aquatic schools in summer camps or on college campuses. The training is conducted by a selected group of field personnel in a ten-day course. Last year about 3,000 persons registered. For the most part, those taking the courses in June were college students, aged 18-20, preparing for work in summer camps or as lifeguards. Those attending the aquatic schools in August were a little older and were school teachers or athletic instructors preparing to teach swimming during the fall and winter terms. In all, the Red Cross program has qualified about 60,000 water safety instructors who certify more than a million and a half people each year in swimming and life saving courses.

How the home committee can help

In large cities, bathing facilities are usually under the jurisdiction of the parks department or a recreation commission. Personnel of these departments are publicly charged with responsibility for the safety of citizens using public facilities. Safety rules are established and usually posted, and enforcement of these rules is usually in the hands of special police, lifeguards or uniformed attendants.

Invite your parks commissioner to meet with your committee. Find out what his special problems are. Ask him how various organized citizen groups can help. Your objective: to help him make your city's recreational facilities safer for all citizens.

In some communities a citizen group has helped publicize the safety rules established for pools and beaches by printing the rules and distributing them to all constituent members. Elsewhere, interested citizens have helped obtain necessary lifesaving equipment. (But equipment for publicly patrolled beaches and pools is an *official* responsibility. If the budget for equipment is not enough it is better in the long run to enlist citizen support for a larger budget.)

Showing of films and distribution of posters and leaflets help to engender interest. (See reference list on page 22). Most drownings, however, happen at places other than those publicly organized and patrolled—on lonely stretches of beach, small lakes and lagoons, rivers, canals, ponds. Where there is considerable water sports activity in unorganized areas, the home committee can help by promoting some kind of safety organization which can set up the necessary subcommittees for establishing and publicizing rules, arranging with county commissioners for deputizing volunteer patrols, buying and allocating necessary equipment and organizing and publicizing classes in swimming and in small-boat handling. ■

SOME FACTS ON DROWNING

1. The few available studies indicate that most drownings do not happen to persons while swimming or playing in water. In other words, most of the persons drowned were thrown into the water accidentally.

2. The total number of drownings in 1956 was 6,263 persons. Of these, about one in every 5 was a child from 5-14 years of age, and about one in every 3 was in the 15-34 year age group. Thus, drowning claims most of its victims among younger persons.

3. About 6 males drown for every female. Saturday and Sunday, as might be expected, are the days of most frequent occurrence, and the afternoon between 3 and 6 o'clock the most frequent hours.

4. In one study of drownings*, "being alone or with someone unable to assist," "non-swimmer in boat," and "child left unattended" are, in that order, the 3 most frequent violations of good safety procedure reported.

*"Facts on Drowning Accidents," by B. W. Gabrielson, University of Georgia Printing Department, 1956.

outwit summer hazards
recreation campaign

Recreation

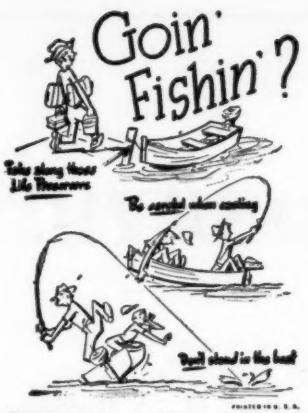
POSTERS

(Printed in two or more colors)

Posters are available for individual selection at the following prices:

	1-9	10-99	100-999
A size, any selection	.15	.092	.063
B size, any selection	.30	.22	.185

All prices shown are subject to a 10% discount to National Safety Council members.



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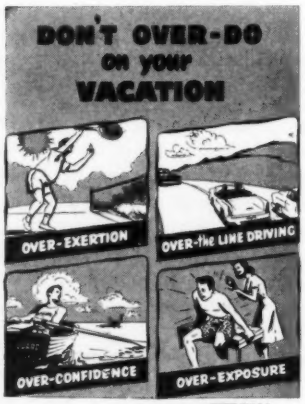

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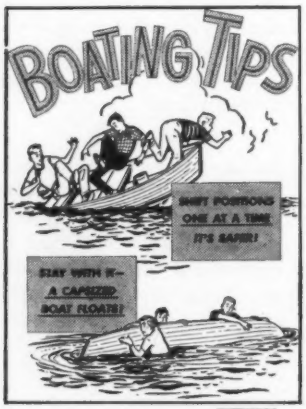

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outwit summer hazards
recreation campaign

a doctor's blunt opinions on drowning prevention

how to keep children alive

by Harry F. Dietrich, M.D.

THE SHOCKING increase in drownings during the first year of ambulation is clearly shown in figure 1. Someone has failed to provide the simple protection needed to save over 200 young lives.

As with other serious or lethal accidents, the prevention of drowning in the very young demands 100 per cent protection. The persons responsible for the infant's care must not allow the child to drown, nor permit others to drown him. It is that simple. But even this early period can entertain simple educational efforts.

Unfortunately most parents and nurses daily spend time falsely "teaching" the young infant that it is unsinkable. "Watch baby swim" is lovingly innocent, but perilously provocative. When the infant is two years of age, parents are proud that "he is absolutely unafraid of water." When, at the age of two, three or four, he drowns by blithely stepping into six feet of the same water, they "cannot understand how he could do such a thing!" Yet for three years the parents have taught nothing but the alleged virtues of water, to the point that, except when it descends from a cloud, water is the epitome of everything that is desirable and clean—and, by unfortunate intimation, good.

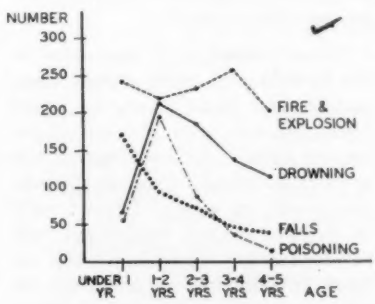

Figure 1—Some causes of accidental deaths among children in USA in 1956.

National Office Vital Statistics

"Drink this, it will make you strong (or well)." "I will get some water to clean up the dirty mess you have made." "You're just filthy (bad?) but this *nice* bath will make you clean (and then I'll love you!)" "Tinkle (lovely sound!) like a good baby." "Make your 'duty' (what a travesty on semantics) in this water and you will be a good and grown-up child." These are samples, probably as malignant as they are common.

I do not pretend to understand our culture's fetish about water. I am, however, very certain that the early emphasis on the implied moral values of water, rather than on its physiologic use and physical properties, has composed a prelude to drowning in the young.

The young infant in his bath can be taught a respect for, rather than a fear of, or an indifference to the potentialities of water. He can learn that the untrained human body is not unsinkable. He should and can find out, without eternally warping his attitude toward a drink of water, that fluid in the mouth, eyes and

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Dr. Dietrich is a well-known authority on child accident prevention and is on the staff of the Department of Pediatrics, University of California School of Medicine.

air passages may occasion discomfiture without any mitigating emotional rewards.

Learning to Swim

When should a child learn to swim? The answer is perhaps too obvious to need elaboration. He should learn to swim sometime before the likelihood of unexpectedly finding himself in water over his depth. If he is born on a houseboat, it will be early. If he lives on the desert he may not learn until he enters military service or otherwise changes his place of residence. If his home is in certain sections of Arizona or Nevada, the mere knowledge that he should not camp in dry washes during the thunderstorm season may serve to prevent drowning. The proximity of irrigation ditches, ponds, water-filled quarries, rivers, swimming pools, lakes and oceans will suggest the time at which youngsters should learn to become self supporting in water.

I cannot refrain from condemning the barbarous practice of (even successfully) teaching reluctant and screaming young children to stay afloat for the sole purpose of providing their mothers, nursemaids and swimming instructors with something to brag about. I am not sure whether it is as a safety enthusiast, a pediatrician, a father or as a sadist, but I am very certain that I would enjoy seeing these same mothers and swimming instructors taught to like snakes by entirely comparable methods.

The Next Lessons

Learning to stay afloat in water is only an early phase of the educational training to prevent drowning. About the time the child proudly professes to be a "good swimmer" he should, without warning, be pushed, pulled, lured or thrown into water while he is clothed. Thus he will learn that his ordinary clothing may rob him of his newly gained ability to stay afloat easily.

Obviously, the next logical step is to teach him to shed his clothes while he is in the water so that he may regain maximal swimming ability. From a practical standpoint, when he can get out of a sweat shirt and completely laced basketball shoes while he is in the water, he can be justly confident of his ability to survive if chance or chicanery land him in water when he is fully clothed.

The youngster must be impressed with the fact that things other than clothes can rob him of his ability to swim. A blow on the head, successive inhalations of water, a cramp in the stomach or legs, a severe allergic reaction or even extremely cold water may diminish or completely inhibit his ability to stay afloat.

Baker, in a paper entitled "Drowning Is a State of Mind," has wisely pointed out that fear, too, can rob a swimmer of his chance to live. We can borrow from either psychology or sociology the same antidote; to dispel fear, the combination of anticipation and enlightened instruction is ideal.

Assuming that a child now knows how to swim, is aware of certain circumstances that may reduce his swimming ability and is armed with a knowledge of how best to counteract or prevent those deterrents, can we now relax our educational efforts ? Not if we wish to pursue our problem to its logical and lifesaving conclusion.

Special Lessons

Without belaboring an obvious line of thought, the child's education from this point must be specialized in accordance with the aquatic opportunities and hazards to which he is exposed. In various environmental situations he must learn about currents and tides, and conducting himself in surf, undertow, whirlpools and among rocks or coral.

He may need to be instructed in the handling of rafts, canoes, logs, paddle and surf boards or small boats. He may even, at a later time, require advice which will enable him to extricate himself from an airplane overturned in water. Diving, with or without oxygen equipment, will call for further education. Is this too much to think of? Is anything else more regretfully thought of when one is confronted with a water-sodden corpse that was a youngster or a parent? ■

outwit summer hazards
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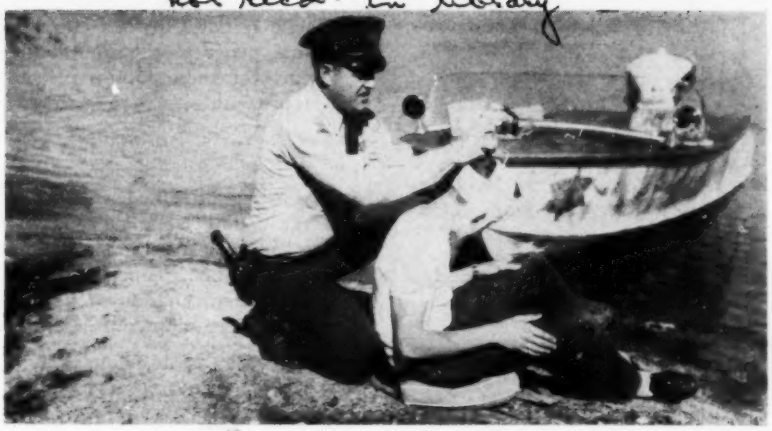
Spectacular campaign of 30 men on Arizona lakes slashed drownings.

Posse —

NINETEEN-HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIX was a terrible year on two boat-infested lakes in Maricopa County, Ariz. Thirty-two persons drowned; many others were injured as they slid from water skis and hurtled from speeding boats.

But, in 1957, the death-toll dived to nine; then in 1958, slid to two. During two years, in spite of a boom in boating, the number of drownings on these two lakes was slashed by 94 per cent.

Responsible for thwarting death on lakes Saguaro and Canyon, is a volunteer safety enforcement group, called the Water Safety Posse. Appalled by the year's accidents, they organized in 1956 and began to operate early in 1957. The posse has included, among others, two lawyers, a veterinarian, a telephone company technician, salesmen, merchants, a rancher and farmer, rural fire chief, tavern operator, insurance adjuster and night club entertainer. Some are fishermen; some are water skiers; some like speed boating. But each man has in common, the desire to do everything possible to promote water safety.



Sparkplugs of Posse are Deputy Sheriff Art Schuster, left, and Operations Officer John Jennings, below.

Enemy of Death

Before the posse was organized, the situation was grim. Early in 1955, Arizona and particularly Maricopa County, was caught up in the national boom in water recreation. Unconfirmed statistics from outboard motor and boat manufacturers hails Arizona as the second largest area of boat owners per capita population in the country. The Phoenix Chamber of Commerce reported in its publication, "Phoenix Action," that there is at least one boat for every 50 families in this area.

Most attractive to water-enthusiasts were the two major lakes in the state, Saguaro and Canyon, both under the jurisdiction of the Tonto National Forest. Officials of the forest estimated that during 1955, over a half million persons flocked to the recreational facilities of these two lakes. During 1956, the figure increased, and along with it, the number of boating and skiing accidents. There was no safety regulation or enforcement.

To rectify this, the Tonto National Forest supervisor adopted safety rules to apply on the lakes. Without any enforcement personnel, the rules were ineffectual.

Recognizing the drastic need for "teeth" to back up the rules, Maricopa County Deputy Sheriff Art Schuster and John C. Jennings, operations officer, got the approval of Maricopa County Sheriff L. C. "Cal" Boies and Tonto National Forest officials to form volunteer boatsmen into a water safety enforcement organization.

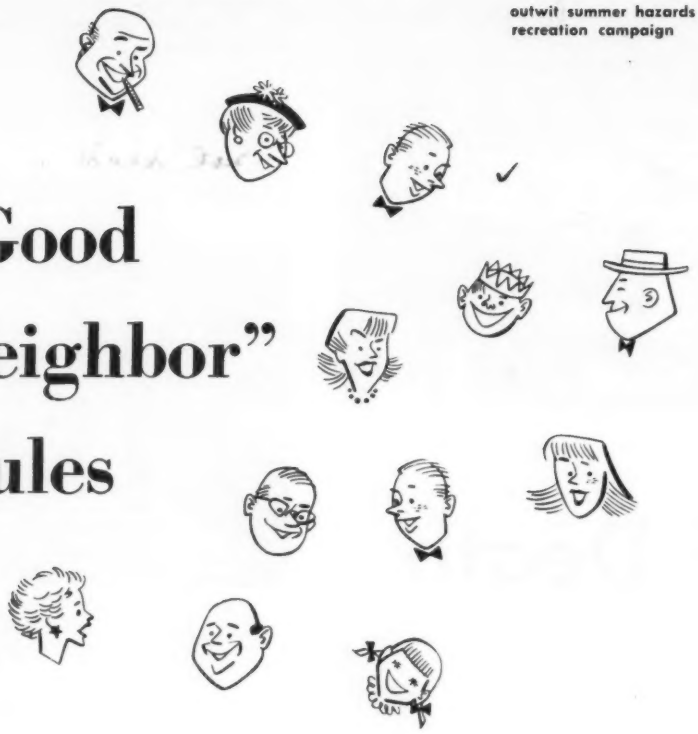
Each man in the posse had to: own a motor boat; be familiar with problems of boating and water sports safety; respect and protect the rights and privileges of fishermen, water skiers, swimmers and speed boat operators alike; be courteous and respectful to all persons at all times while performing water safety instruction and enforcement. In addition, each man had to properly prepare for the job by satisfactorily completing courses in American Red Cross advanced first aid, laws of evidence and arrest, life saving and small boat handling.

After being organized and trained, the posse began to function in February 1957. The results were soon obvious. The number of accidents dropped. And the posse accomplished this, without denying any boat operator of any class boat his rights or privileges to use the lake as he wished, provided he did not threaten injury to any person, including himself, or damage to property. Only one person has ever been cited into court. He was under the influence of alcohol.

The posse also helped put through a state boating safety law. Three of a four-man lay committee to prepare a proposed statewide boating safety law were members of the Water Safety Posse. With minor wording changes, this bill, prepared by the committee, was passed by the last Arizona legislature, after considerable lobbying by two members of the posse.

Thirty men of the posse, at their own expense, have prevented an inestimable number of drownings and accidents. Knowing this, is their compensation. The users of the lake must know, too, for they have given the posse a kind of silent tribute—no one has ever complained about the attitude or performance of any member of the posse during some 3,300 man hours of safety patrol on the lakes. ■

"Good Neighbor" Rules



Perturbed residents of a lake got together—

Results? a code enforced with a smile

What they did and how, might serve as a model.

THE WEAPONS FOR enforcing water safety on Lake Meridian in the state of Washington, are education and a smile.

The residents of the lake have set up a plan by which members of an education committee patrol and scan the lake area with binoculars. When they find an offender of the rules, which are publicized, they approach him with a smile and explain the rules are for his protection.

The Meridian plan is based on the rule of good citizenship, "consideration." This basis was especially important because the lake had so many divergent problems — swimming, rowboating, sailboating, canoeing, fishing, powerboating, as well as guests of a resort, public access from which boats are launched and antagonism among various groups.

Residents realized full utilization of the lake was a privilege demanding the responsibility of safety for all. They knew they must set the pattern and see that the pattern worked. In cooperation with the King County Commissioners and the King County Sheriff's Department, the residents set up the following plan. Other marine areas confronted with similar problems could adjust the plan to local conditions.

ORGANIZATION

The Lake Meridian Safety Council was formed and every resident of the lake and any other interested parties were automatically members.

1. The entire group elected officers for the coming year.
2. The area was divided into natural geographical groups and each of these groups elected representatives to a general safety committee.
3. A report of a joint committee who has presented a report to the county commissioners was given. The resolution adopted by the commissioners and general recommendations for safety rules were adopted.
4. The teenagers formed their own safety council and elected three representatives to the safety committee.
5. The safety committee with a membership of sixteen adults and three teenagers set up the following plan:

Educational Committee

1. This is the most important committee. It is their responsibility to educate all users of the lake regarding the intent and reason for the safety regulations.

Education through the spirit of helpfulness as a good neighbor and not a dogmatic spirit of enforcement should account for 99 per cent of the work with people who are not conforming to the code.

This committee should have enough personnel, including teenagers, to keep the area under observance during those times when there will be activity. Teenagers work closely with their own group and in many cases have successfully informed adults of what the plan tries to accomplish. Weekends and holidays are the most likely times for problems to arise and these are divided up and assigned in short periods so nobody will be burdened. Much of the observance is done with binoculars. It is very necessary to nip the problems as soon as they arise so noncompliance does not become a pattern.

2. The second part of the work of the education committee is to have safety educational meetings in the spring which

will be informative and fun for all attending.

Enforcement Committee

This committee is a part of the educational committee but will only be used as the last resort, for drunks and persons who cannot be reasoned with. These members will be deputized by the sheriff's department.

Engineering Committee

This committee works out appropriate markings for zoning and any other technical matters that need research.

Publicity Committee

This committee working with the education committee sees that the rules and regulations are given good publicity by printing pamphlets, sign boards and local publications.

SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LAKE MERIDIAN

Users of the waters of Lake Meridian have been allowed the privilege of utilization of the facilities of the lake under the following conditions. These rules and regulations are for your protection. The lake is being patrolled and observed by members of the safety committee. Any suggestions they may have to offer you is in the spirit of friendliness and a desire to see that your family, friends and yourself will not meet with an accident. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Lake Meridian Safety Council

1. All water craft shall be operated in a proper safe manner.
   - A. No stunting
   - B. No squirreling
   - C. No burning donuts
2. All boats will
   - A. Carry life preservers or safety cushions for each person aboard
   - B. Not be overloaded
   - C. Have all passengers seated off decks so operator will have clear and unobstructed visibility while under way.
3. Speeds up to 20 mph will be allowed from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. but must observe the following conditions:
   - A. Speeds must be adjusted for safe operation
   - B. Must remain 200 ft. from shoreline
   - C. Must remain 100 ft. from other craft and swimmers.
4. Maximum speed at other hours will be 8 mph.
5. Boats pulling water skiers must have an observer who will watch the skier at all times when under way.
6. All skiers will wear a safety belt sufficient to hold them up.
7. Take-off for skiing will be perpendicular to the shoreline.
8. Non-powered watercraft will always have the right of way.
9. When picking up a person from the water, motor must be dead.
10. Boats operating after sundown will have proper running lights.
11. Throwing of debris in lake such as bottles, cans, etc., is prohibited.
12. Swimmers stay out of the 200 ft. area off shore between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
13. Be thoughtful of the rights of swimmers, fishermen, other boat men and property owners. ■

New Federal Boating Law

THE POPULARITY OF the outboard motor has created overnight safety problems for some areas. It is estimated that there are approximately 6 million outboard motors in use, the number having doubled in 10 years.

So great has been the concern of many agencies that Congress in 1958 passed a bill, the so-called Bonner Bill, requiring the registration of power boats and the reporting of accidents to occupants and owners.

The law is known as the Federal Boating Act of 1958. It basically sets up a state-operated system of numbering all inboard and outboard powered pleasure craft of more than 10 horsepower. It also provides for a uniform system of accident investigation and reporting, and puts the federal government on record as favoring uniform boating regulations throughout the country.

Soon after the President signed the bill, a special subcommittee of the Council of State Governments announced it had completed work on a model state boating law which will be recommended to all state legislatures to implement provisions of the federal act.

The new law came after some three years of study and is universally supported by the boating industry and all major boating organizations.

Many state legislatures concerned with the booming popularity of boating have been closely following Congressional action. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, New York, North Carolina and Florida are among the first states expected to act. Others of the 46 state legislatures meeting in 1959 are expected to speedily put through boating programs. California, Illinois and Massachusetts are expected to show early interest.

To be eligible for administration of the new system, states must agree to these requirements: Use the series of numbers assigned by the federal government, provide for renumbering of boats at least every three years, maintain a water accident reporting system and agree to a 90-day reciprocity period in recognizing numbers awarded by other states.

not used.

Photo, MSA News

One thing to watch is how you use charcoal lighter fluid

Hamburgers without Hazards

A PICNIC OR BARBECUE is lots of fun for the whole family, especially if Dad is the chef—whether it be in the park, forest preserve, or just in the backyard. But remember that you're dealing with fire.

If your grill is portable, be sure that it is set up out in the open, away from anything that might catch fire. You don't want to set the house or garage ablaze!

The first thing to do is to get that fire going. The safest way is still probably the time-honored one, wood shavings. There are electrical fire starters on the market, and if one of these is your choice, be sure it is UL approved. When the charcoal is ignited, put the starter to cool where youngsters and pets can't get burned —and where it can't start an unwanted fire.

Of course, kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid, and so forth should never be used to start your fire. There are many liquid and "treated" solid "fire starters" available that have lower flash points. However, the Chicago Fire Prevention Bureau cautions that these are *flammable liquids* and makes the following suggestions if they are used:

1. Keep only one pint on the premises at any one time.
2. Only adults should use a "fire starter."
3. The fire should be lighted by a long wick, *never* with a match held in the hand, as the fire may flare up.

Now the fire is ablaze. For best cooking results, as well as for safety, let the fire burn down to a good bed of coals before using. Of course, the chef should be dressed for the job, which means no dangling clothing. A large, fairly heavy apron will keep splatters off and shirttails in as well. A word of warning: Those lovely, frilly dresses for little girls have no place at a barbecue, even a very formal, "company" one. They are much too dangerous around fire.

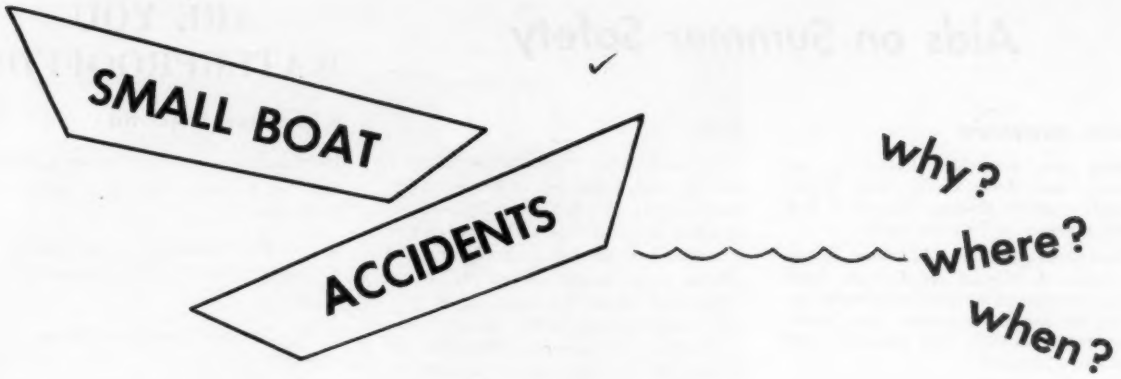
As far as equipment for the grill is concerned, choose a long-handled spatula, fork and spoons. One of the most useful items at a cookout is a pair of long tongs. They are ideal for turning meat, getting potatoes from the coals—and even for adding fuel just where you want it.

A pair of heavy "pot holder" type gloves is essential, as is a water spraying device for keeping down the flames from drippings. A plastic bottle used for sprinkling laundry is fine. Don't forget to provide plenty of work space near the grill, and be sure that sharp knives and other tools are out of children's reach.

You may have objections to using your regular pots and pans and coffee pot on your grill—they do get dirty. An investment in some inexpensive but sturdy utensils (with handles that can't burn) especially for picnic use is far safer than cast-offs from the kitchen. A pot with a broken handle is just that much more hazardous over an open fire.

Many a picnic has been spoiled by a bout of food poisoning. If food is prepared in advance, the cardinal rule is "keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold." Get cold food into the refrigerator promptly after preparation, and keep it there until it's time to leave. If you'll be on the road or otherwise occupied for any length of time between house and eating place, insulated food carriers are a must. Provide one for hot food and one for cold if your menu demands. Potato salad, ham and cream dishes are among the worst offenders.

If you are planning a jaunt to the park, forest preserve or just to "the country," there are other points to keep in mind. The backyard doesn't have the added dangers of poisonous plants or snakes, or scenic hazards such as rivers, gullies, ravines and cliffs. When you get to your picnic spot, take a good look around if it's unfamiliar territory so that the family — and especially the youngsters —can enjoy the outing without tragedy. ■



• ***A study suggests some answers***

WHAT DO WE KNOW about persons who die in small boat accidents? How old were they? Why were they using the boat? What caused the accident?

Partially answering these questions is a study of accidental deaths and small boats compiled by the Outboard Boating Club of America. The study, published in June 1958, concerns a total of 1,237 fatalities with as much detail as could be garnered from extensive news-clipping coverage.

Of the 1,237 fatalities, 87 per cent were male. The age of the victim was available in 94 cases out of 100. Some 18 per cent of the fatalities were between 5 and 19 years of age, and 55 per cent were in the 20-45 year age bracket. Thus, appreciably more than half of the victims were men in their active years.

In almost three-fourths of the cases, the activity engaged in could be identified. The following table lists these activities in order of importance.

Activity Engaged in at Time of Accident

ACTIVITY	% CASES	% of Mentions as "Reasons for Buying" Outboard Boats, 1957
Fishing	56.6%	48.2%
General Boating*	8.9%	—
Cruising	6.5%	27.3%
Hunting	5.9%	6.7%
Water Skiing	3.2%	15.6%
Racing	1.3%	1.2%
Commercial	—	1.0%
Other	17.6%	—

*Note: Includes family outings or using the boat for transportation or "running about."

Concerning the above table, the study says: "It is apparent that fishing has accounted for a larger proportion of the recorded accidents than is to be expected even from the most popular reason for purchasing a small boat. This correlates with the findings as to cause of accidents, in which standing in a boat, falling overboard, over-loading, and the like are predominant.

"There is probably more opportunity or necessity for a fisherman to stand in a boat than a participant in any of the other activities listed, for example, and this difference in the activities may tend to contribute to the higher incidence of accidents among one group. This may well be the reason for the extremely low incidence appearing in water skiing and cruising, in which activities there may be relatively little inclination to stand or overload a boat, or to venture into high waves or rough weather."

Of the "causes" ascertained by the study, less than 6 per cent were concerned with faulty equipment or so-called "freak" accidents. The great majority of cases involved faulty operation or negligence, for example, collisions 9 per cent, swamping 15 per cent, operator negligence 32 per cent, and fire or explosion 2 per cent. Boats capsized or overturned, including those cases where little was known except that the boat was found overturned, accounted for 29 per cent of the cases.

The "causes" of the accidents as reported in the study indicate that extensive education of the public in the techniques and skills of handling small boats is necessary. Courses of instruction are available in a majority of the areas where lakes are prevalent.

For information about courses including instructors, films, etc., the local committee should contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary headquarters at 15011 Hilliard Road, Cleveland 7, Ohio. The Auxiliary headquarters can give the committee addresses of local or regional units of the Auxiliary and names of persons to contact.

The local Red Cross Chapter will have full details—about the many courses in small-boat handling—basic boating, sailing, canoeing, small craft safety demonstrations—available through the Red Cross water safety program. The Boy Scouts have manuals and instructional materials for their own groups from which adult groups could well profit. ■

The complete study is available from the Outboard Boating Club of America, 307 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Aids on Summer Safety

Books, pamphlets

Red Cross textbooks: *Swimming and Diving,* and *Life Saving and Water Safety,* available through your local Red Cross Chapter at 75 cents each.

Red Cross pamphlet: *Teaching Johnny to Swim: A Manual for Parents.* Individual instruction by parent for child too young for group instruction (i.e., under 9 years). Available also through local Red Cross Chapter.

Sink or Swim? Ten Ways to Save Your Life, by Jack Harrison Pollock, Birk & Co., publishers, 22 East 60th Street, New York 22, 8 cents each, lower in quantity.

Program Planning for Camp Waterfront, Jacobs & Buchman Press, 1030 Walnut Street, Allentown, Pa.

Two colorful eight-page leaflets on vacation safety covering traffic, outdoor, water, and home safety. Prices for *Have Fun* (#194.37) are as follows: 10-99 copies, 11 cents each; 100-999, 7 cents each. *Let's Go On a Safe Vacation* (#194.36) is 10 cents each in lots of 10-99 and 6.9 cents each for 100-999 copies. Lower prices for larger quantities. Prices subject to 10 per cent discount to NSC members.

Posters

Posters available from your local Red Cross Chapter: *You Can Help: Even if you can't swim*—series of three posters, three colors, showing six ways a non-swimmer can assist the swimmer in trouble.

You Can Help Yourself: Even if you are a weak swimmer—series of two posters, three colors, depicting cautions against overloading canoes and boats.

"Leadership and Instructor Training," four-color poster publicizing Red Cross aquatic schools.

Read and Heed, water safety rules.

Data Sheets

National Safety Council, Safety Education Data Sheet on *Swimming* (#429.04-27) and *Small Craft* (#429.-04-28). Four-page guides for teachers, available from the Council, Chicago 11, Ill., 10 cents each, lower in quantity orders.

The following Safety Education Data Sheets are available from National Safety Council, Chicago 11, Ill., at 10 cents each (lower in quantity):

#429.04-8 Poisonous Plants, 429.04-18 Camping, 429.04-35 Poisonous Reptiles, 429.04-42 Horseback Riding, 429.04-43 Hiking and Climbing, 429.04-44 Hook and Line Fishing, 429.04-80 Counselors and Helpers in Summer Camps.

Films

Available from Chief, Public Information Division, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington 25, D.C. or from Commanders of Coast Guard Districts on free loan basis, are the following 16mm sound motion pictures: *Safety on the Water* (black and white, running time 28 minutes) and *Common Sense Afloat* (color, running time 28 minutes). Both films are cleared for TV use and are directed to pleasure boat owners. *Safety on the Water* stresses importance of providing equipment beyond legal minimums and need for sound knowledge of seamanship and small boat handling, and *Common Sense Afloat* deals with safe practices in outboard motoring.

Available on free loan from Information and Education Department, Aetna Casualty and Surety Company, Hartford 15, Conn., or through local Aetna representatives are the following 16mm sound motion pictures: *Hook, Line and Safety* (color, runs 17 minutes), depicts safe fishing practices; *Paddle A Safe Canoe* (color, running time 13½ minutes), produced in cooperation with American Canoe Association; *Safety Ahoy* (color, runs 15 minutes), covers safety for rowboats, sailboats and motorboats; *Seconds Count* (black and white, 8 minutes), on Nielsen method of administering artificial respiration.

Available on free loan or sale from local Zurich agents (write to Zurich Insurance Company, 135 S. La Salle St., Chicago 3, Ill. for list of names and addresses) is a 35mm sound slidefilm entitled *Having a Wonderful Time,* (black and white, running time 15 minutes). Depicts safe practices for vacationers including water safety, traffic safety, and precautions to be taken in the woods.

The following 16mm sound motion pictures on swimming and boating safety are available for purchase or loan from your local Red Cross Chapter (all are cleared for television use): *Learning How To Swim; Fundamentals of Swimming; Skilled Swimming; It's Fun To Swim; Boats, Motors, and People* (produced in 1958); *Oars and Paddles; Heads Up,* and a new film entitled *Teaching Johnny To Swim* which was sponsored by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as a public service.

ARE YOU WATERPROOFED?

A Red Cross Check-list

1. You are swimming in open water and get a severe cramp in your leg. You should:

   (a) Roll over to a face-down position and massage the aching part ..... ☐

   (b) Swim to shore as quickly as possible ..... ☐

   (c) Tread water and call for help ..... ☐

2. You are out in a boat in rough water and the boat capsizes. You should:

   (a) Get away from the boat, tread water and call for help.. ☐

   (b) Try to swim to shore..... ☐

   (c) Hang on to the boat..... ☐

3. You are swimming in heavy surf and find yourself being carried out to sea. You should:

   (a) Swim towards shore at an angle ..... ☐

   (b) Swim to one side and not against the current..... ☐

   (c) Stop swimming and float with the current..... ☐

4. You are walking out into the water and you step into a deep hole. You should:

   (a) Drop your head forward and move your arms under water dogpaddle style..... ☐

   (b) Throw up your hand and yell for help..... ☐

   (c) Sink to the bottom and push off with your feet to bring yourself up ..... ☐

5. You want to test your endurance with some distance swimming. You should:

   (a) Ask the lifeguard to keep an eye on you..... ☐

   (b) Swim parallel to shore.... ☐

   (c) Arrange for a boat to accompany you ..... ☐

Answers on page 30

Pl 693

Uninformed parents are bungling new jobs as "playground supervisors." Here are pointers they need.

what parents should know about

BACKYARD PLAYGROUNDS

by Doris Mersdorf

DOES THE ABOVE picture of the backyard look like a view from your own kitchen window? It's very likely, for thousands of parents, confronted with inadequate playground area in crowded sections and new suburban developments, have set up their own backyard playgrounds.

While these parents have good intentions, few know anything at all about their new-found roles as playground supervisors. Yet they are making many of the same decisions as are professional supervisors of school and park playgrounds. In ignorance, many well meaning parents are happily assembling their own backyard playgrounds, and then obliviously turning their children loose to survive by trial and error. Some get hurt.

Last spring an impatient five year old boy wheedled his busy mother into putting up his swing. As soon as she had fastened the chain, she hastened back inside the house, leaving her small daughter to toddle about the yard. The eager five year old boy jumped into the swing, laughed and zoomed higher and higher. As his little sister stumbled across the yard to join the fun, the hard seat of the swing came up, bashing her in the forehead and tossing her across the yard. The little girl recovered, but the rip in her forehead turned into a snakelike scar.

Another young acrobat was clambering around his homemade jungle gym, a tangle of wood clumsily tacked together with bolts. The child lost his grip, tumbled through the maze and severely gashed his leg against a bolt shank that protruded an inch and a half.

In spite of the look at the gloomy side, this article certainly does not advocate the elimination of backyard playgrounds. They need not be hodge-podges of hazards, but can be places for accident-free play—*if parents are given pointers on selecting and maintaining equipment and supervising its use.*

Choosing equipment

Parents are mostly buying equipment for their preschool children, but they aren't sure what kind of equipment is best for that age. Chair

swings, hobbyhorse swings or gliders, low slides, low climbing structures, sand boxes and novelty items, such as play logs, pipe tunnels, steps and platform are all suitable for the small child.

Not recommended are devices, such as horizontal bars, giant strides, self-operated merry-go-rounds and large swings, slides and climbing structures. These usually require a degree of coordination, judgment, experience and physical strength which preschool children lack.

Plenty of space

It is important to allow ample space in the yard for each playground device because crowding can cause accidents. Parents should locate equipment so that lines of motion are parallel, that is, swings and gliders should all swing in the same direction. All swinging equipment should be placed so that children leaving one piece of equipment do not have to cross the line of motion of another piece of equipment. For example, children leaving a slide should not have to cross the path of swings to re-use the slide or reach another piece of equipment.

Maintenance

If the backyard playground is not properly maintained, hazards are bound to crop up. To keep the area safe, parents should take the following precautions: (1) regularly examine equipment for broken parts, projecting corners and loose clamps, joints, bolts and fastenings; (2) frequently lubricate all movable parts; (3) daily remove all debris from the yard; (4) immediately remove unsafe equipment from the play area.

Supervision—a must

Too often parents falsely assume that if they carefully select, install and maintain their backyard playground, they need not watch the child while he plays. But supervision cannot be completely eliminated. Parents must explain and enforce rules for safe use of equipment. Since each type of equipment is specialized, it presents a slightly different hazard.

Swings

It is recommended that all type swing seats be of leather belting, rubber or rubberized canvas. Such a seat if it strikes a child cannot severely injure him, nor can he easily stand on the seat. For preschool children the chair type swing is very desirable, because it is almost impossible for a child to fall from it.

Accidents on swings result mostly from improper use: improperly pushing swings that are occupied or unoccupied (always place your hand on the person's body, never on the swing seat); jumping from moving swings; standing on swings; running, chasing and playing around swings; holding baby on lap while swinging; two children swinging at one time. Therefore children should be taught proper use of swings.

Gliders

Gliders (sometimes called hobbyhorse, swings, high flyers or battering rams) consist of a seating board, attached perpendicularly to a vertical double pendulum which is fastened to a swing type support. Each pendulum support has a handle above the plank seat and stirrups below the seat. A push-pull motion of the hands on the handle and feet on the stirrups propels the seat.

The hazards are similar to those for swings. The inflexible seat of a glider can inflict serious injury if it strikes a child's head. Thus, the major danger is to children standing in or crossing the line of motion. Protective padding should be installed on the seat to reduce the severity of a blow. But above all, children should be taught to avoid the path of a moving glider.

Slides

Slides for preschool children should be between 4 and 6 feet high with chutes 8 to 12 feet long. The chute should be curved near the bottom to minimize the shock of landing. A pit of sand, tanbark, soft spaded earth or other resilient surface should be provided for a landing pit.

The stairway should be wide enough for only one person and the steps close enough for a child's small step. A handrail should be on both sides and a platform at least 8 inches wide at the top of the steps so the child can sit before sliding. The chute should have hardwood side rails, tapered so they are 6 to 8 inches higher at the top of the slide than at the bottom.

Accidents on slides are usually caused by the following: standing up on slides, putting babies on slides, forcing someone to slide, pushing a person at the top of the stairway, sliding down backwards, running or climbing up slide, and playing tag on slide. To help avoid these accidents, children should be taught to use slides properly.

Seesaws or teeter totters

The horizontal pipe supporting the seesaw board should not be more than 22 inches above the ground and preferably less. The lower it is, the safer the seesaw. The fulcrum of the board should be enclosed to prevent finger and hand injuries. Boards should be rounded, free from splinters, saddled (knee indentation) and provided with hand holes in "saddle horn" position. To prevent pinching of feet and limbs, safety bumpers should be placed near the ends of the board to keep them 6 or 8 inches off the ground.

Accidents on seesaws usually result when a child jumps off seesaw without regard for his partner, stands or walks on seesaw or bumps board on ground. Children should be taught the dangers of these practices.

Climbing structures

For preschool children, a simple structure of interconnected bars with a maximum height of 6½ feet is best. Structures are usually of galvanized steel tubing, although some wooden types are available.

Climbing ropes and poles and structures with horizontal ladders and bars are usually not suitable for the preschool child. Nor should a child use a structure he cannot reach by himself. If he must stand on a box to reach it, or be lifted, he is too small for the apparatus.

The surface beneath the climbing structure should be kept soft, resilient and free from projecting objects.

An enlightened parent proves a backyard playground need not be a hodge-podge of hazards. Here's how his backyard looks.

A belting seat minimizes the worst danger of a swing—being struck by the hard seat. Nor can a child easily stand in a belt seat. Such seats are highly recommended.

Standing in the path of a glider, the toddler shows its danger. This seat (arrow) has padding of foam plastic, stuck with rubber cement, to soften a blow.

Too little for "handwalking" ladder, boy watches. In case of fire, ladder, set exact distance to upper window of house, can be removed.

To help avoid accidents on climbing structures, children should be taught to hold on with both hands except when moving to a new position, not to use the structure unless it is completely dry and not to push or shove.

Sand boxes

Too many children in a small sand box quite often cause fights and injuries; thus the size of the box depends upon the number using it. A 6-foot square usually accommodates 4 to 6 children peacefully. The sand should be approximately 8 inches deep, clean, of good quality, moist enough for modeling and kept free of paper, sticks, glass and other debris.

A sand box in constant use should be raked and turned daily. If used by children who are not completely toilet trained, the sand should be wet down daily with a 5 per cent solution of sodium hypochlorite (a pint bottle of household bleach mixed with 4 gallons of water). Caution: This solution is strong enough to bleach clothing and cause skin irritation. Children should not be allowed in the sand box for 12 hours after sterilization. Therefore, sand should be sterilized in the evening.

Nocturnal visits by neighborhood cats also call for daily inspection and sterilization. In all other cases, weekly sterilization is usually sufficient for a backyard sand box.

Injuries in the sand box are usually caused by: children throwing sand, blocks, shovels or other play equipment; presence of glass or sharp objects in the box; rough box surface such as splinters or rough metal edges. To help prevent such injuries it's up to parents to daily inspect the box and supervise sand box play.

Special play equipment

Special play equipment, such as the play log, pipe tunnel and steps and platform, permits children to use their imaginations as well as their muscles.

The play log is a log supported on a wood or concrete upright. It encourages climbing, balancing and jumping, as well as stimulates the imagination of a child who pretends it is a horse or train. Two or three logs of heights varying from 18 to 30 inches are desirable.

Children also enjoy crawling through tunnels of drainage tile. Tunnels 30 inches wide are large enough. A length up to 12 feet is satisfactory.

Steps and platform, including a sand jumping pit, provides the young child an ever increasing thrill, adventure and sense of accomplishment as he learns to jump from higher levels.

Sources of information for all types of recreational equipment are The National Recreation Association, 8 W. 8th St., New York 11, N.Y., and The Association for Childhood Education International, 1200 Fifteenth St., N.W., Washington 5, D. C. ■

FACTS ABOUT

LADYKILLERS

ACCIDENTS cause about 23,000 deaths a year in the United States among women ages 15 and over, and of these more than 10,000 occur before age 65. In the age range 15-64 years, accidental injuries take twice as many female lives as diabetes and about 4 times as many as tuberculosis.

Far outranking all other types of mishaps, motor vehicle accidents were responsible for about three fifths of the fatal injuries among white women under 65 years of age in 1954-55. The large majority of these women were occupants of a motor vehicle, either as passengers or drivers, at the time they were injured. All other types of transportation combined accounted for less than 5 per cent the number killed in motor vehicle accidents, with aircraft taking a somewhat greater death toll than either railroads or water transportation.

Accidents in and about the home in 1954-55 were responsible for only one fifth of the fatal injuries among white women at ages 15-64, a surprisingly low proportion considering the large amount of time that these women spend in the home. Most of the other fatal accidents occurred on streets and highways, in places used for recreation and sports, and in public buildings, hospitals and other resident institutions.

Very few women lose their lives in industrial places. In the entire country, only about 25 such deaths occur in the course of a year among white women at the main working ages, which speaks very well for the safety program of American industry.

The age variation in mortality from the leading types of accidents among white women is shown in the table. For all types combined, the death rate in 1954-55 decreased from 20.8 per 100,000 at ages 15-19 to 13.3 at ages 25-34, but then rose steadily with advance in age to 31.1 per 100,000 at 55-64 years. Motor vehicle accidents accounted for the greater part of the mortality at every age period. At 15-19 years, four out of every five of the fatalities were due to motor vehicle mishaps. The proportion decreased progressively as age increased, but even at ages 55-64 it was nearly one half.

The actual death rates from motor vehicle accidents showed a somewhat different age picture. The highest rate from this cause was recorded at ages 15-19 but the mortality was almost as high at 55-64 years. In contrast, the death rates from the next leading types of accidents—falls and fires—begin at a low point in adolescence and rise with advance in age. Accidental falls, in particular, are concentrated at the older ages. In fact, up to midlife the number of white women killed by accidental falls is less than the total who die in fires, but at ages 55-64 falls take 3 times as many lives as fires. Drowning, gas poisoning and firearm accidents, on the other hand, take a somewhat greater toll of life at ages 15-19 than at the older ages.

The facts emphasize the need to extend and strengthen the safety education program for women. The deplorably high loss of life among them has shown no tendency to abate in recent years. American women can do much more than they have to promote safety—not only their own but also that of their family—by making their homes as free from hazards as possible, by careful supervision of children in their charge, and by inculcating an attitude of safety in growing youngsters. ■

Reprinted from STATISTICAL BULLETIN, *July, 1958, published by Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.*

Death Rates from Specified Types of Accident

White Women, Ages 15-64. United States, 1954-55

Age Period (Years)	Average Annual Death Rate per 100,000								
	Accidents Total	Motor-Vehicle	Falls	Fire and Explosion	Poisoning by Solids and Liquids	Drowning	Poisonous Gas	Firearm	All Other Accidents
15-64.....	19.0	11.5	2.1	1.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.8
15-19.....	20.8	16.2	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.2	0.5	0.4	1.2
20-24.....	17.0	12.7	0.4	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.3
25-34.....	13.3	9.1	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.3
35-44.....	15.7	8.9	1.3	1.5	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.9
45-54.....	20.8	11.4	2.6	2.3	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.2	2.4
55-64.....	31.1	15.2	7.8	2.5	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.2	3.4

Source of basic data: Various reports of the National Office of Vital Statistics.

Article reprinted U.F. Ho 751 y

by Gordon T. O'Neill

Tips for Carefree Mowing

answers to some questions

the public asks

about power lawn mowers

Do I need a power mower?

This depends on the size and terrain of the lawn. Frequently, small city lots with relatively small areas of lawn can be cut more efficiently and effectively by a manually powered reel mower.

What kind should I buy?

The rotary-type mower, which is the most frequently used and the least expensive to purchase and maintain, is primarily used for cutting high grass and working over relatively rough terrains.

The reel power mower is usually more expensive to purchase and maintain and requires a relatively smooth terrain. It is not so effective on high weeds or grass as is the rotary, but seems to do a better job on a good quality lawn.

Riding power mowers are increasingly popular and are convenient for large areas which require a great deal of energy even on a power-propelled walking-type mower. However, riding mowers may introduce additional hazards in excessively steep terrains.

Power mowers in general may be powered either by gasoline combustion engine or by electric motor. The electric-powered mower is used rather infrequently, although it has the advantages of less weight and quieter operation. The gasoline engine power mower is by far much more frequently used.

What features should I look for?

All power mowers, in addition to good balance, should have wheels large enough to give easy operation over rough and uneven terrain.

The handle of the mower should be long enough so that the operator cannot pull the mower back onto his feet. If the mower has reversible handle, it should be equipped with stops which the operator can engage at will.

All moving parts on the mower, including chains, belts and gears should be enclosed in order to prevent contact.

Self-propelled walking-type mowers should have a positive means of disengaging the drive in order to prevent any unintended movement of the mower.

On rotary mowers the lowest portion of the blade should not extend below the sides or rear of the housing, other than at discharge openings. There should be a several inch clearance between the tip of the blade and the end of the discharge opening or a bar across the opening to prevent contact with the end of the blade.

Gasoline-powered mowers with recoil-type starters are relatively easy to start and minimize some of the starting hazards.

Gasoline-powered mowers, as well as electric-powered mowers should have positive and reliable on-off switches.

Do some need special features?

The electric mower, should be grounded with a three-lead cord and a polarized grounding plug to eliminate the potential of a shock hazard. If your mower does not have a ground as a standard part of the machine, attach one end of a ground wire to the metal frame of the mower and the other end to a water pipe or an iron stake driven deeply into the ground. Tape the wire around the power cable to prevent entanglements.

On electric mowers the motor and the cord should both have an Underwriters Laboratories seal or some other approved testing agency's recognition.

Riding-type mowers are like small tractors and as such should have a center of gravity as low as possible and broad wheel spread to minimize the possibility of their tipping over either backwards or sideways.

(Continued next page)

Are there many power mower accidents?

The number of mower mishaps has increased in proportion to the upsurge in popularity of the power mower during the last 15 years. In 1958 an estimated 15 million power mowers were in use.

Mower accidents are anything but out of the ordinary. In fact, every day newspapers carry accounts of mower accidents, among them such serious ones as these: A Florida woman was killed by a blade that sailed 50 feet from a power mower and through a window pane before striking her. A little girl was killed when her jugular vein was severed by a piece of metal hurled by a power mower.

How can I prevent mower accidents?

Follow completely the manufacturer's recommendations for operation and maintenance and consider them as standard operating procedure.

Before you begin mowing clear the area of all obstacles such as rocks, stone, pieces of wire, sticks.

Set the mower at the highest cutting point when using it on rugged or uneven terrain to prevent mower from accumulating or ejecting an excessive amount of debris.

Keep the cutting path clear of all persons and animals. While the mower is in operation, no one but the operator should be allowed near it.

Never leave unattended a power mower which is running.

Under no circumstances allow children, including young teenagers, to operate power mowers. Anyone planning to operate a power mower should be thoroughly instructed in safe and efficient operating procedures.

Even though a grounding arrangement has been provided, it is advisable not to use an electric mower when it is raining, when the grass is wet or when the mower is wet or damp.

Do not reach under the deck, chain guards or belt guards of the mower until the mower is stopped and the power source disconnected.

Start the mower on firm, clear, level ground. Maintain a firm grip on the mower and stand to one side when starting it.

When cutting heavy, tall grass or heavy weeds, proceed slowly to avoid choking the mower or stalling the motor.

Cut hills and banks sidewise instead of up and down, provided the grade is not too steep to prevent balance and control of the mower.

Under no conditions, pull the mower back toward you on a down grade.

Is certain clothing advisable?

Wear heavy, close-fitting trousers and brogue-type shoes or, preferably steel-toe safety shoes. Operating a power mower while wearing loose-fitting clothes or open-toe shoes or while barefoot, invites injury.

Also, it is strongly recommended that you wear safety glasses. Accident data show frequent occurrence of eye injuries from flying objects.

What maintenance is necessary?

Keep motor free from accumulations of grass, leaves or excessive grease. An accumulation of these combustible materials could cause a fire or damage the motor and working parts of the mower.

Allow mower to cool and clean it before storing it.

Systematically inspect mowers and lubricate all moving parts.

To adjust the mower, or remove objects or attachments from it, always turn off the motor and make sure it will not be started while you are working.

Before doing work on the underside of a gasoline-powered mower, disconnect the spark plug wire and allow the engine to cool. On electric mowers shut off the power at the source.

Do not refuel a liquid-powered mower while it is hot, running or in a closed area, nor while you are smoking.

Store liquid fuel in tightly sealed containers of a type approved by Underwriters Laboratories, Incorporated. Keep the container outdoors in a shed or garage—not in the basement or utility room of a house.

It is advisable to have only experienced mechanics or power mower servicemen repair these machines. ■

HOT WORDS FROM PARIS

Edouard Tercinet, municipal councilor in Paris, has launched a campaign to make ladies' lingerie fireproof. "In my visits to French hospitals I have discovered that woman are suffering more and worse cases of burnings than men," he said. "It is because the synthetic products used in their undergarments are dangerously fire-provoking." — *Chicago Sun-Times*

Off the Presses

Safe at Home, a new booklet, emphasizes basic home safety practices, but also includes some recreational and traffic material. It is new in its approach as well as its publication date.

The introduction, directed to parents, aims to create a realization of the need for and a desire to make the home as safe a place as a child believes it to be. It is designed to develop an awareness of the responsibility of adults for not only their own safety but also for that of dependent children and the elderly.

This pamphlet provides listings of specific "Danger Signals" (hazards) and "Safety Habits" (safe practices) related to the prevention of home falls, fire burns and scalds, cuts, electric shock, and poisoning (gas and solid). The recreational and traffic material is more general.

The minimum order for this two-color, 16-page, illustrated pamphlet is 50 copies. It may be purchased from the National Safety Council at the prices listed below.

Number of Copies	Price per copy
50-499	$.065
500-999	.060
1,000-4,999	.056
5,000-9,999	.053
10,000-19,999	.051
20,000 and over	.049

Stock number—599.61

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The Residential Wiring Handbook, edited by the Industry Committee on Interior Wiring Design, has been approved by the American Standards Association as American Standard C91.1-1958. To comply with ASA terminology, the standard will be retitled "American Standard Requirements for Residential Wiring, C91.1-1958." The Residential Wiring Handbook, or regional derivatives of it, is best known as the standard used by 130 agencies affiliated with the National Wiring Bureau for purposes of certifying the adequacy of the interior wiring system of residences. It prescribes location, rating and quantity of electrical circuits and outlets in residence. It is not intended as an instruction book on how to install wiring but rather is a set of standards for planning the wiring installation.

* * *

The following are a few of the books in the ACTION series in housing and community development to be published by McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

Residential Rehabilitation: Private Profits and Public Purposes by Miles L. Colean, nationally known economic consultant and William W. Nash, analyst ACTION research program.

Capital Requirements for Urban Development and Renewal by John M. Dyckman, assistant professor in the Institute for Urban Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Reginald R. Isaacs, chairman of the Department of City and Regional Planning, Harvard University.

Government and Housing in Metropolitan Areas by Edward C. Banfield, associate professor political science, University of Chicago and Morton Grodzins, professor and chairman of the Department of Political Science, University of Chicago.

* * *

Community in Disaster, by William H. Form and Sigmund Nosow. Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd St., New York 16. 271p. April, 1958, $5.00.

On June 8, 1953, a tornado struck Flint, Mich., leaving 115 dead, 800 injured and the remnants of millions of dollars worth of property in the Flint-Beecher area. *Community in Disaster* is a study of this tornado, its effects and its aftermath, as revealed through hundreds of first-hand interviews with the survivors and the rescue workers.

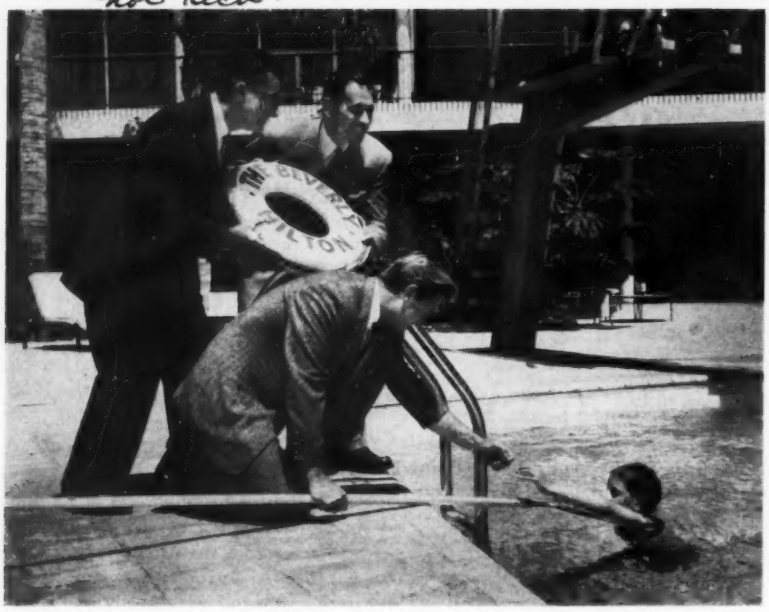
The book has two main foci: 1. a study of the individual behavior of victims and rescuers, and 2. a study of the performance of the various organizations—local, state and national—that responded to the emergency.

The study shows that in disasters the immediate needs of the victims are met in most part by the residents of the stricken area. The tornado struck at 8:20 p.m., and by 10:45 p.m., most of the injured and dead had been removed. While the women looked after the children and nursed the injured, the men carried on rescue operations. There was a very definite relationship between a man's knowledge of his family's well being and his usefulness in rescue work. The men who knew that their own families were safe felt free to help others.

A number of case histories usually told in the words of the victim or rescue worker, add interest to the book.

The authors, both professors at Michigan State University, demonstrate that crisis behavior may be predicted from a knowledge of the roles that individuals play in everyday life.

not rec'd.



Left, Jack Bullard, president Associated Swimming Pool Contractors and Joseph M. Kaplan, manager Los Angeles Safety Council, watch TV star Lloyd Bridges "rescue" a young swimmer at the clinic. Below, visitors crowd to view the exhibits.

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Clinic for Swimmers

PLANS FOR A 1959 Swimming Pool Owners Clinic to be held June 18 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, Calif., are underway, according to Essie L. Elliott, vice president of the Greater Los Angeles Safety Council's Home Safety Division.

The clinic, held for the first time last year and regarded as a "smashing success," will feature a greatly expanded program of activities and exhibits this year, predicts Miss Elliott.

The 1959 clinic will again be sponsored by the Associated Swimming Pool Contractors and the Greater Los Angeles Safety Council in cooperation with the Los Angeles chapter of the Red Cross.

The clinic is a response to a tremendous need for pool information in the area. "There are more than 30,000 private pools in this area," said J. T. Blalock, president of the Greater Los Angeles Safety Council. "We feel there is a definite need for a program of this type to acquaint pool owners with the maintenance and safe operation of their pools."

More than 1,200 persons heartily endorsed Mr. Blalock's statement, last year by flocking to the all-day clinic which had an admission and luncheon price of $3.50. Over 120 persons had to be turned away.

The morning program was launched by a Walt Disney film on water safety. Following was a panel discussion on pool construction, maintenance, equipment and design, use of chemicals, health standards and insurance, liability and taxes. Next was a demonstration of proper swimming instruction for children.

Highlights of the luncheon were: Lloyd Bridges, motion picture and television star who was master of ceremonies; a speech by Dr. Harry F. Dietrich, pediatrician and nationally recognized authority on child accident prevention; and for the light touch, a swim suit fashion parade.

In the afternoon, clinic participants watched a diving exhibition, ending about 2 o'clock, then were free to visit the exhibits of swimming pool services and equipment setup by members of the Associated Swimming Pool Contractors.

Each person attending the clinic was given a package of safety materials, including the chapter's vacation safety rules and poster, NSC swimming data sheet, the chapter's water safety newsletter, Red Cross water safety rules and copies of each speaker's remarks.

To publicize the clinic, the Council sent out 50,000 announcements. To help keep down costs, the Council used the equipment of Farmers Insurance to stuff the announcements and the mailing list of United Swimming Pool Service, Inc. ■

ANSWERS from page 22

1. (a) The face-down position enables you to float while you are relieving the cramped muscle.
2. (c) Boats usually float.
3. (b) This maneuver takes you away from the current and conserves your energy so you can swim back to shore in a straight line.
4. (a) and (c) Either way will take you out of a hole. Using (c) you will continue to push up and down, in a bobbing manner, until you're clear.
5. (b) and (c) Even if a lifeguard could concentrate on a single individual, if you swim out, you must get back. This might overtax your ability.

THE NATIONAL ACCIDENT FATALITY TOLL

	1958	1957	Change
ALL ACCIDENTS	91,000	95,307	—5 %
Motor-Vehicle	37,000	38,702	—4 %
Public non-motor-vehicle	16,500	17,500	—6 %
Home	27,000	28,000	—4 %
Work	13,300	14,200	—6 %

***Note:** The motor-vehicle totals include some deaths also included in work and home. This duplication amounted to about 3,200 in 1957 and 3,300 in 1956. All figures are National Safety Council estimates, except the 1956 all accident and motor-vehicle totals, which are from the National Office of Vital Statistics.*

All Accidents

Killed—91,000, 5 per cent down from 1957.

Injured—9,100,000.

Cost—$11,900,000,000. Includes wage loss, medical expense, overhead cost of insurance for all accidents, interrupted production schedules, time lost by workers other than the injured, etc., due to work accidents and property damage in traffic accidents and fires.

Deaths of children under 5 years numbered approximately 6 per cent more than in 1957. Among children 5-14 years old the death total was down 4 per cent. Changes in adult groups were: 15-24 years, down 1 per cent; 25-44 years, down 9 per cent; 45-64 years, down 5 per cent; 65 years and older, down 6 per cent.

Fatal falls numbered about 10 per cent fewer than in 1957—16,500; burns went up 4 per cent to 6,500. Drownings were down 5 per cent at 6,300. Fatal firearms accidents went up 3 per cent to 2,450.

The 1958 death rate per 100,000 population was 52.5.

Work Accidents

Killed—13,300. This was 900 less than the 1957 total.

Injured—1,800,000, nearly 100,000 down from 1957.

Cost—$3,850,000,000. Includes cost of interrupted production schedules, time lost by workers other than the injured, etc., as well as wage loss, medical expense and the overhead costs of insurance.
Total all-industry employment was about 3 per cent less than in 1957.

Coal mine deaths numbered approximately 350 in 1958 according to preliminary reports, down from 473 in 1957.

Railroad employee fatalities totalled 136 in the first nine months of 1958. The nine-month injury total was 9,369. Comparisons with 1957 figures cannot be made due to changes in I.C.C. reporting rules.

There apparently was a small decrease in the all-industry disabling injury rate.

Worker Accidents

Killed—41,800, down from 46,500 in 1957. On job, 13,300; off job, 28,500.

Injured—4,000,000, down 9 per cent from 1957.

Time lost, including indirect, amounted to 275,000,000 man-days, equivalent to the shut-down of plants with more than 1,000,000 workers.

Public Accidents

(Not Motor Vehicle)

Killed—16,500.

Injured—2,050,000.

Cost—$800,000,000.

Decreases occurred in all age groups except in the 15-24 year group which remained the same.

There were sizeable decreases in falls, drownings and burns. There were increases in firearms and water transport accidents.

Railroad Accidents

Nine-month death total—1,702. Injuries numbered 13,998. Comparison with 1957 figures cannot be made due to changes in I.C.C. reporting rules.

Grade crossing deaths decreased 5 per cent to 887 while injuries totalled 2,096.

Passenger deaths numbered 53, compared with 13 for the same months of 1957.

Trespasser deaths numbered 561, a decrease of 4 per cent from 1957.

Airplane Accidents

There were four fatal accidents during 1958 in the domestic passenger-carrying operations of scheduled air carriers, in which 114 passengers and 15 crew members were killed. The passenger death rate per 100,000,000 passenger-miles, based on preliminary information, was 0.44.

Home Accidents

Killed—27,000 down 4 per cent from 1957.

Injured—4,000,000.

Cost—$900,000,000.

Decreases occurred in four out of six age groups. The largest proportionate decrease was in the 5-14 year group.

There was no change for the 15-24 year age group. Deaths in the 0-14 year group increased.

Fire Losses

The value of property destroyed by fire in 1958 was $1,056,000,000, or 3 per cent more than in 1957.

It's New . . .

HOME SAFETY PRODUCTS

Publication of product announcements in this section should not be construed as endorsement or approval by the National Safety Council.

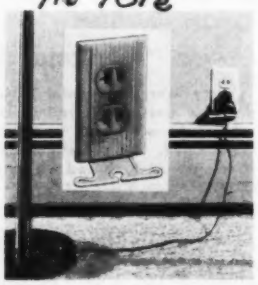
"air conditioned" boot

An "air conditioned" rubber boot with a one-button closure is being made for men and children. The boot, molded in one piece, is made entirely of rubber and has no fabric lining. It will stretch to fit over any shoes. The smooth inner surface is said to make it easy to put on and take off.

Ridges molded inside reportedly assure ventilation and circulation of air. A button and strap, molded as part of the boot, provide extremely easy closure, even with cold-numbed fingers says the manufacturer.

Tingley Rubber Corporation, 903 Ross St., Rahway, N. J.

cord bracket



The "Cord Caddy" is a simple bracket to make the cord on every lighting fixture exactly the right length. It can be used in the living room to keep lamp cords tight and neat and in the kitchen to keep appliance cords out of the way.

It is simple to install says the manufacturer. It is necessary to loosen the screws on the face plate of a wall outlet, insert the "Cord Caddy" and tighten. Then plug in the cord, wrap the excess wire around "Cord Caddy" and lead through the hole.

Brittain Sales Corporation, 777 Copley Rd., Akron, Ohio

germicidal bowl cleaner

Bol-Tabs, a bowl cleaner in a fast-dissolving tablet form, now have a germicide to kill Staphylococcus. This product reportedly kills germs 20 times faster than phenol and only one-third of the amount of material is needed.

Bol-Tabs are said to loosen rust and lime stains, while cleaning and deodorizing. They will not harm porcelain enamel according to the manufacturer.

Horizon Industries, 400 Lumber Exchange Bldg., Minneapolis 1, Minn.

Match Book

This new safety match pack has an inner safety shield cover stapled to the bottom of the pack. This forces the user to take a match from the side. There automatically is a covering over the other matches when striking, should the user forget to close the outside cover before striking.

According to the manufacturers, this safety shield will prevent flareups and burns.

Fund Del Inc., Jericho Turnpike and So. Oyster Bay Road, Syosset, N. Y.

Cord Mount

To keep electric cords safely and neatly off floors simply press a length of this self-adhering plastic casing on the wall where needed. Cords slip into this Cord Mount that sticks to the baseboards. Flexible so cords can be put in and taken out easily. Keeps cords out of children's hands and ends dangerous cord tangles.

Donlin's Dept. 869-A, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54.